

18 January 2011

February 2011 Pharmaceutical Schedule Dispatch

This document is provided to pharmacists as an early notification of the changes to be announced in the **February 2011** Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Please notify PHARMAC (0800 66 00 50) to change or remove your contact details.

New listings

- Potassium citrate (Biomed) oral liq 3 mmol per ml, 200 ml OP – Special Authority – Retail pharmacy (p'code 2378728)
- Oestradiol (Estradot) TDDS 25 µg per day (p'code 2358840) and TDDS 100 µg per day (p'code 2358883) – Higher subsidy with Special Authority – no more than 2 patches per week – only on a prescription
- Lincomycin (Lincocin) inj 300 mg per ml, 2 ml – Retail pharmacy-Specialist – Section 29 (p'code 2378620)
- Fentanyl (Mylan Fentanyl Patch) transdermal patch 12.5 µg per hour (p'code 2351927), 25 µg per hour (p'code 2351935), 50 µg per hour (p'code 2351943), 75 µg per hour (p'code 2351951) and 100 µg per hour (p'code 2351978) – Only on a controlled drug form – no patient co-payment payable
- Salbutamol with ipratropium bromide (Duolin HFA) aerosol inhaler, 100 µg with ipratropium bromide, 20 µg per dose CFC-free, 200 dose OP (p'code 2349337)
- Sodium chloride (Biomed) soln 7%, 90 ml OP (p'code 2378701)
- Caffeine citrate (Biomed) oral liq 20 mg per ml (10 mg base per ml), 25 ml OP (p'code 461253)

New Brand Switch Payments

- Pharmacy services (BSF Apo-Clopidogrel) brand switch fee – no patient co-payment payable – may only be claimed once per patient per fee (p'code 2378655)

The above Pharmacode corresponds with the Brand Switch payments listed as part of the 2010 Pharmacy Services Contract. Full details on dispensing Brand Switch payments, along with resources to aid pharmacists in explaining brand switches were sent to pharmacies in late October 2010. For further resources please order from www.pharmaonline.co.nz. For more information in the meantime, visit: <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2010/10/17>

Changes to restrictions

- Fentanyl (Durogesic) transdermal patch, matrix 25 µg per hour, 50 µg per hour, 75 µg per hour and 100 µg per hour – amended Special Authority criteria
- Risperidone (Risperdal Consta) inj 25 mg per 2 ml, 37.5 mg per 2 ml and 50 mg per 2 ml – amended presentation description in line items and in Special Authority criteria

Decreased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands	Partially subsidised brands
Ezetimibe	Tab 10 mg	Ezetrol	
Ezetimibe with simvastatin	Tab 10 mg with simvastatin 10 mg Tab 10 mg with simvastatin 20 mg Tab 10 mg with simvastatin 40 mg Tab 10 mg with simvastatin 80 mg	Vytorin Vytorin Vytorin Vytorin	
Goserelin acetate	Inj 3.6 mg Inj 10.8 mg	Zoladex Zoladex	
Itraconazole	Cap 100 mg	Itrazole	Sporanox
Ondansetron	Tab 4 mg Tab 8 mg	Dr Reddy's Ondansetron Dr Reddy's Ondansetron	Zofran Zofran

NB. For further details and magnitude of the above subsidy changes, please consult the online version of the Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule at: www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/Schedule.

Nicotine replacement therapy prescriptions

The maximum dispensing rules for nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) were removed from 1 January 2011. We understand that this has resulted in uncertainty among some prescribers and pharmacies about quantities that should be prescribed and, therefore, dispensed. It appears that some prescribers are not including dose and quantity of supply on their prescriptions.

Prescribers are reminded that prescriptions must indicate the total quantity or period of supply, and include a dose and frequency. Prescriptions must meet these legal requirements to comply with regulation 41 of the Medicines Regulations 1984.

As a guide for prescribers (and Quitcard providers), the Medsafe datasheet recommended doses for the funded (Habitrol) brand of NRT are as follows:

- Patches (all strengths): 1 per 24 hours
- Lozenges: as needed when the user feels an urge to smoke. Normally 8–12 per day, up to a maximum of 25 of the 1 mg lozenge or 15 of the 2 mg lozenge per day
- Gum: as needed when the user feels an urge to smoke. Normally 8–12 of the 2 mg pieces or 4–6 of the 4 mg pieces per day, up to a maximum of 20 pieces per day for the 2 mg gum and 10 pieces for the 4 mg gum. Different maximum quantities apply for people who are taking the gum in addition to the patches; please refer to the patch instruction sheet or Medsafe datasheet for more information on combination dosing.